

Unit 2 Progress Test B

1 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 I wouldn't have to put up with this slow computer if I **had paid** / **would have paid** a little more to buy a better one.
- 2 It **was** / **would be** very hard to stay in touch with friends if people hadn't invented mobile phones.
- 3 **Went up** / **Up went** the red flag. It was a penalty!
- 4 We **had enjoyed** / **would have enjoyed** the trip more if the weather hadn't been so bad.
- 5 **So** / **Such** impressed were the band with Tom's guitar playing that they hired him on the spot.
- 6 If it **wasn't** / **hadn't been** for a passing motorist, we would have had to walk all the way home.
- 7 **In no way** / **Little** do I approve of what you did, but I won't tell anyone about it.
- 8 **Rarely** / **Hardly** have my parents listened to the same music as me, but I caught dad whistling to Wiz Khalifa the other day.
- 9 Tom would have slept better last night if he **didn't read** / **hadn't read** a scary short story before going to bed.
- 10 **Supposing** / **Provided** the internet suddenly stopped working, what would we do?
- 11 We went up and down the street, but **nowhere** / **neither** could we see the number 34.

Mark: ____ / 11

2 Choose the correct words to complete the book review.

Book club review: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*

¹ ___ a work colleague at my summer job not enthusiastically recommended *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* to me, I probably ² ___ read it. But I'm very glad that I did. ³ ___ have I come across such a poignant and beautifully-written novel.

The plot begins when a car arrives at a small village in the tea-growing hills of Yunnan province, China. It is the first car that Li-Yan has ever seen, and ⁴ ___ does she know how the stranger in that car will change her life. As the plot unfolds, Li-Yan is forced to abandon her family, her village and her baby daughter. ⁵ ___ years later, when mother and daughter live in different continents, do they decide to try and find each other. But ⁶ ___ that you wanted to find someone whose name you do not know, how ⁷ ___ about it? The answer, intriguingly, is the tea that grows in the hills of Yunnan Province, but to say any more would spoil the plot.

⁸ ___ reading *The Painted Veil* have I come across such a beautifully evocative description of rural China. ⁹ ___ impressed was I with the novel, that I'm now enthusiastically recommending it to all my friends.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 a Were | b Supposing | c Had |
| 2 a wouldn't have | b didn't | c haven't |
| 3 a No longer | b Seldom | c Neither |
| 4 a rarely | b neither | c little |
| 5 a Not until | b Never | c No longer |
| 6 a Should | b Provided that | c Supposing |
| 7 a would you go | b will you go | c did you go |
| 8 a No sooner | b Not since | c Not only |
| 9 a Such | b So | c If |

Mark: ___ / 9

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 It's a _____ story which you'll find hard to put down.
a gripping b clichéd c tedious
- 2 One brave investigative reporter actually _____ a terrorist group in order to write about them.
a tipped off b infiltrated c revealed
- 3 The book contains a _____ description of how the Apollo 11 spacecraft landed with only seconds of fuel left.
a nail-biting b slow-moving c macabre
- 4 When it emerged that the Prime Minister had accepted money from a foreign country, it caused a huge _____.
a revelation b undercover c scandal
- 5 In Zola's novels, he describes the _____ struggle of the poor to make a living and look after their children.
a life-threatening b never-ending c middle-aged
- 6 I _____ at his untidy appearance, but I didn't want to say anything.
a wondered b emerged c prayed
- 7 We'll be very happy to _____ you and your family when you come to London.
a steal after b tip off c receive

Mark: ____ / 7

4 Match the words and phrases in the box to the definitions.

touching big-budget gutsy tip-off shallow ground-breaking

- 1 Very brave and determined. _____
- 2 Not convincing or very real. _____
- 3 Very original and different to what has been done before. _____
- 4 Poignant and affecting viewers or readers' emotions. _____
- 5 A piece of important information which causes people to act. _____
- 6 Costing a lot of money to make. _____

Mark: ____ / 6

5 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

true takeaway far-fetched well-dressed complex seem revelations disappointing suspense considered

- 1 The biography contains some startling _____ about the President's private life.
- 2 Abbie is always _____, but she doesn't wear a lot of make-up.
- 3 There's a lot of _____ in the novel – you never know what's going to happen next.
- 4 I loved the first two novels in the trilogy, but the third one is a bit _____. I was expecting more.
- 5 I'm tired of eating _____ food. Let's go and eat in a proper restaurant, or cook at home.
- 6 The idea of someone living alone on Mars for all that time is a little _____, but if you get over your disbelief, it's quite a good film.
- 7 The plot is so _____ that you have to see the film several times in order to really understand it.

Mark: ____ / 7

Use of English

6 Complete the text with one word in each space. There may be more than one possible answer.

What the photos have in ¹ _____ is that they both show people writing, or at some stage of the writing process. In the first photo there is a woman on her own, sitting on a bed and ² _____ the top of my head, I'd ³ _____ she's writing a diary. It appears to be a very private and individual activity and she seems so busy writing that she's unaware of her surroundings. The clearest difference ⁴ _____ the photos is that there are more people in the second photo. Photo 2 has a group of people around a table with notebooks on it. It ⁵ _____ like a creative writing class because there are objects and photos on the table too, so I suspect the students have to write about them. Photo 2 ⁶ _____ people talking to others about what they're going to write, ⁷ _____ in photo 1 the woman is already putting her thoughts down on paper. The first photo shows an individual activity. On the other ⁸ _____, photo 2 shows collaboration and sharing as part of the writing process.

As I ⁹ _____ it, while there's been a big increase in the number of creative writing degrees, I don't think writing diaries is as popular as it used to be. All things ¹⁰ _____, writing for ourselves can be just as important as writing for others. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on our feelings without having to worry about what other people think all the time.

Mark: ____ / 10

Listening

7 2 Listen to a journalist talking about two other journalists she admires. Complete each sentence with a word or short phrase.

- 1 The speaker says that there are _____ issues about spending time with some people incognito.
- 2 Doty learned about the lives of fellow prisoners and began to _____ them.
- 3 Antonio Salas wanted to infiltrate a _____ and find out how its people operated.
- 4 Salas met the family of Carlos the Jackal, who is in prison for _____ in France.
- 5 Salas' hopes that his investigations will help _____ to avoid terrorist groups.

Mark: ____ / 5

Reading

8 Read about the *War Horse* and answer the questions.

- 1 What does the article suggest about cavalry tactics in the First World War?
- 2 In what way is *War Horse* similar to Jack London's novel *Call of the Wild*?
- 3 Why is it surprising that the puppet horses in the play are so believable?
- 4 Why does the article mention the opening scene of the film?
- 5 Overall, how well have the play and film have captured the original story?

Mark: ____ / 5

The many faces of *War Horse*

War Horse began its life as a best-selling novel and was then adapted into an award-winning stage play. In its final reincarnation it became a big-budget Hollywood film. Arts Editor Stephanie Palmer looks back on the phenomenal success of the War Horse franchise.

Author Michael Morpurgo's inspiration for *War Horse* was the largely-forgotten story of the horses taken to the battlefields during the First World War. Enduring the horrors of modern warfare alongside their human companions, they carried supplies to the front lines and helped to evacuate the wounded. The least fortunate were drafted into the cavalry and sent with their riders to face almost certain death – in pointless charges, swords drawn, straight towards machine guns. Rarely did war horses survive for long: of the one million horses that went to war, only 60,000 returned.

The novel

Michael Morpurgo's novel was originally written for teenagers, but is also avidly read by adults. It has become a modern classic – a runner-up for the Whitbread Award which has sold millions of copies worldwide. Like Jack London's epic tale *Call of the Wild*, the narrative in *War Horse* is told from the point of view of an animal: a farm horse called Joey who is sold to the army to become a cavalry horse. As the tale unfolds, not only does Joey witness the horrors of combat, but he also experiences both the cruelty and tenderness of the different people he meets.

The novel's characters are well-rounded and complex, allowing us to identify with them rather than judge, even when it comes to Albert's cruel father. Ultimately, the plot hinges on the relationship between Joey and the main human protagonist: a young boy called Albert who grew up with Joey. Albert goes on to enlist in the army, despite being under-age, in order to find and rescue Joey. Such a tale could have been far-fetched had a lesser author written it, but Morpurgo manages to make it entirely convincing.

Despite being for younger readers, the novel in no way avoids the gruesome realities of war. In this respect too it resembles *Call of the Wild*, which is also anything but sentimental. *War Horse* would be a less powerful novel if Morpurgo had hesitated to kill off some of his main characters. Instead he underlines the tragic cost of war by portraying the deaths of likeable characters such as warm-hearted Friedrich and Joey's companion, the horse Tophorn.

The play

In no way was it easy to adapt *War Horse* for the theatre, bearing in mind the need to recreate believable live horses and epic battles on a relatively small West-End stage. The solution to many problems was to use brilliantly-crafted puppets.

If the puppets' creators, the Handspring Puppet Company, had tried to imitate the look of real horses, they would probably have failed to impress. Instead their horses are wonderful moving sculptures, made of translucent fabric and a wooden frame. So brilliantly are the horses operated by their puppeteers that their movements are astonishingly believable and lifelike. No sooner has the play begun than you forget the puppets' lack of anatomical realism and fully embrace them as living, breathing animals.

The play skips some details in the novel, perhaps inevitably when changing the format to a two-act play. And unlike readers of the novel who see things through the horse's eyes, you are watching the action from the outside. Suddenly some of the coincidences in the plot seem a little harder to accept. Having said that, it is a truly great piece of theatre, and deserves both its popularity and multiple awards.

The film

Films adaptations of successful novels often disappoint partly because of Hollywood's tendency to jazz up the plot for the big screen, adding action, love interest and sweeter endings. Had Steven Spielberg gone too far down that road, the story would have lost its power. Instead, his adaptation successfully avoids the usual Hollywood clichés, despite significant changes to the original story. As well as solid, convincing performances by Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson and Benedict Cumberbatch, the film is very cleverly structured. Even the opening scenes, which feature sweeping views of the unspoilt English countryside, have their place in the overall scheme of things. They serve as a striking contrast to the vision of hell which comes later: the corpse-littered, bomb-cratered fields at the front line.

Although there are some important differences between the book, play and film, it's fair to say that the spirit of *War Horse* remains resolutely the same. In whatever form it takes, *War Horse* is a poignant and compelling tale. And despite the tragedy portrayed – the senseless waste of human and animal life – Morpurgo manages to deliver a story of hope. We are left with the feeling that even in the chilling presence of death, love, loyalty and tenderness can prevail.

Writing

- 9 Read the task below and write a film review (220–260 words). Remember to plan your paragraphs before beginning to write.**

Write a review of a film which was adapted from an original novel. Mention any important differences between the book and the film. State which you prefer, and why.

Mark: ____ / 10

Total: ____ / 70